

BUFORA

JOURNAL

In this issue

Isle of Wight low-level sighting

A 'classic' from Belgium

MOD tracks UFO on radar

Volume 4 Number 12

March/April 1976



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The British UFO Research Association

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Aims

To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into UFO phenomena. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to UFOs. To co-ordinate UFO research on a nationwide scale and to co-operate with people and organisations engaged on similar research in all parts of the world.

Membership

The annual subscription is £4.00, \$10 in the USA and Canada. Membership is open to all who support the aims of the Association and whose application is approved by the Executive Council. Application/information forms can be obtained from any officer.

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Editorial

At the time of going to press, it appears that the Bufora publication survey has met with a good response. Michael Prewett tells me that your comments and suggestions have all been constructive.

The concept of a survey of this sort within Bufora is, I think, unique. I have been the first editor to risk the fury—and in a few cases, thanks—of the membership. But the survey should prove important. We are often seen to be preoccupied with our own problems. Many of these problems have been reflected in the material I receive for publication—a lot of raw data, but no feedback from those who are investigating, and from those who are researching. Council members know that they too, have an obligation to feed the *Journal* with correctly prepared information. After all, it is the *Journal* which is the link with you, the member.

Another consideration is that in professional terms, the *Journal* is already printed on a minuscule budget and is produced in limited spare time in competition with demanding domestic and professional commitments.

But our communication problems are being faced. Armed with your comments, and your co-operation, I am confident that we can all contribute to the advance of our challenging new science—by committing our joint efforts to print!

RICHARD BEET.

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Research

Research evening

This well-attended Kensington meeting (7 February) demonstrated the interest in, and importance of, our Research work. Chaired by Tony Pace, who stressed the value of the amateur in ufology, the meeting continued with the following speakers:

Charles Lockwood, who spoke on the progress of the EM detection and Vehicle Interference projects. On the first project, EM detection, it was suggested that Bufora contact the 10 continuously operating geophysical recording stations situated throughout the country. The Vehicle Interference project was going well, and, with the help of member Geoffrey Falla in Jersey, Bufora now had 200 VI reports.

Ken Phillips, NIC, described the new sighting account form and reported that he and his counter part in Contact were working closely together. Training for investigators—by correspondence course—was expected to start after the publication of the investigators handbook.

Mark Rodriguez, Research Assistant for Allen Hynek's Center for UFO Studies, described the work that had gone into a forthcoming catalogue of EM cases. The EM case was especially interesting, he said, because it cut across many other

classifications. There were remarkable similarities between the cases catalogued by the Center and those gathered by Bufora. The first recorded EM case was in 1893, when witnesses observed a fish-like UFO over Oregon, and the first recorded vehicle interference case was as late as 1954, in Ontario.

Finally, *David Viewing*, Extra-terrestrial Society, presented an intriguing and thought-provoking paper entitled 'The way ahead'. He cited ufology as 'ascientific', and ufologists as having 'little purpose and little ability'. Part of the remedy would be the implementation of a research programme, and the publication of results in existing scientific journals. The research programme, he suggested, could be of three years duration, and should be comprised of specialist groups, dealing in topics such as psychology, physiology, optical perception and aviation.

Another conference ?

The 7 February Council Meeting agreed in principle to explore the possibility of organising another Research and Investigation conference, with a suggested date of autumn 1976. The organisers would be asked to see whether prominent international ufologists would attend. Jenny Randles agreed to prepare the initial groundwork for this exercise.

Training handbook

This has now been prepared in draft form and it is hoped that, subject to sufficient finance being available, it would be available later this year.

Lecture summaries

Ufology as a fringe science

by IVOR GRATTAN-GUINNESS,
4 October 1975.

The talk provided an interesting insight into the ways science works and contrasted this with the UFO phenomenon, showing reasons why there is still an uncertain hostility between the scientific community and our subject. It was stressed that ufologists must strive to make scientists aware that there is a real problem, since it will ultimately be the scientist who provides the answers. Until recently, it was attested, physics was the science. All other fields were broken down and related to this (even to the intriguing point of once trying to make

chemistry a part of physics!).

In many ways the approach to the UFO phenomenon has been similar. We have attempted to reduce it to simple machines. Nowadays there is a swing away from this towards a realisation that other more peripheral factors are involved. This swing parallels one in science itself where fringe sciences have become more popular and physics has lost its pride of place. It does however, help to explain the hostility previously felt by science, since the UFO phenomenon is not reducible to 'one field' as science once tried to be. Perhaps this new approach to a less structured study will assist ufology in gaining recognition.

A further parallel with science is in the fact that all theories are based on something unknown. For instance, it has now been found there are sub-atomic particles, but when we 'explain' these, we only find more complex things waiting for an explanation. In this sense, he stated, the same thing will happen with the UFO phenomenon. The idea that UFOs are representative of beings from another planet will, at the least, be a very incomplete answer. He concluded by asking us to recognise that UFOs did belong to fringe science and that their study was but one of many such 'sciences.' There did seem to be an overall pattern, as cited examples of the Stella Lansing phenomenon (featured fully in recent issues of *Flying Saucer Review*) indicated, but the answers could only lie in finding ways to appeal to the scientist and getting him involved.

JENNY RANDLES.

UFO scene in Belgium and the EEC

by RUDY DE GROOTE,
1 November, 1975

This was a most welcome current situation report on the state of ufology in the rest of Europe. As might be anticipated, it was apparent that France had taken the lead in UFO research. This, it was thought, was due to several factors. These include the famous public statement in 1974 by the Minister of Defence, who declared that the Government had been officially studying the phenomenon for 20 years and that they *did* believe a genuine problem existed. Coupled with this was the emergence onto the field of Dr Claude Poher, his successful system of co-operation with the Gendarmerie and the public support of leading astronomers.

Two of the most important European publications came from that country, namely *Lumieres Dans La Nuit* and *Phénomènes Spatiaux*. The latter was part of the contemplative organisation GEPA, who only carried through a few investigations in depth. Apart from the existence

of a well-respected magazine and its researchers in Spain (*Stendek*) the position elsewhere was none too favourable. Germany, for example, had only one major organisation—and that was totally convinced that UFOs were extra-terrestrial.

Concluding with his native Belgium, he noted that groups tended to be short-lived and would spring up after each wave of sightings—a situation also true in this country. SOBEPS were the largest organisation publishing *Inforespace*, but one of the chief problems in European ufology was language—which made exchange of data very difficult. In Belgium the Study Group for Progressive Sciences did produce a bi-lingual publication and only dealt with selected 'true' UFO cases. He summarised some recent examples of landing cases, including the most recent known at the time, where an entity was seen sitting on high-tension cables! He pointed out the urgent need for international co-operation on the subject. This had to be preceded by co-operation within one country. It had been tried unsuccessfully before in other countries, but he refused to believe pessimists who proclaimed that it was not possible, because people did not want to co-operate. Time will tell who is right.

JENNY RANDLES.

Personal column

Science Paper No 1—*THE USE OF ANALYTICAL INSTRUMENTS in the SEARCH for EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL SPACECRAFT*. Price 30p (non-members 50p), post free. Cash with order to: A West, 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST.

Bufora Lending Library

I have been trying to get the Lending Library restarted for some time, having donated a number of books to *Bufora* over the years. We have now found a volunteer to run it and I know several members want to use it. However, most Council members seem to think this valuable service would be little used. If you think otherwise please write to the Chairman and let him know.

LIONEL BEER.

Isle of Wight low-level sighting

Investigator: RICHARD NASH.

Date of Event: 14 January 1976.

Place: Ryde, Isle of Wight.

Investigation: February 1976.

Codes: 76-003 and 76-012.

Mr Riddell (35), a Pilots Assistant, was in his garden at 0040 when he noticed a bright light in the west, at about cloud level. It remained stationary for a period of about one minute and seemed to be slightly obscured by cloud. It then grew brighter and appeared to be definitely glowing. It appeared to be moving towards the witness at an estimated speed of only 30 mph. He called to his wife who then both watched it approach, growing dimmer and at a considerably lower height than when first seen. It passed almost directly over their heads and the glow from above silhouetted the underside which appeared as dark rounded oblong shape. Estimates of size are 100 feet long and 50 feet wide, and the closest they can come to an angular size at arms length, is a packet of tea! Despite its proximity and an estimated height of 300 feet, there was at no time no sound during the four minutes of observation.

After passing overhead, the object continued eastwards. Mr Riddell followed it around the side of his house where he noticed it suddenly accelerate to a fantastic speed and depart at what he is certain was an upward angle.

The witness reported their observation to the RAF at Thorney Island. The RAF informed the coastguard, because they thought the witnesses were "quite convinced". It was the coastguards who informed the press, much to Mr Riddell's

chagrin, since he was subsequently inundated by reporters and was unhappy with the way they 'played up' the story. A spokesman from the air base said that he thought it might have been a helicopter, but on checking, found that it had not been one of theirs. He also informed the witness that he would probably hear shortly from the Ministry of Defence. Within five minutes of reporting the incident to RAF Thorney Island, the MOD were on the phone to him!

Mr Riddell later received the usual standard 'non-committal' letter from the Ministry, with no explanation offered for the sighting.

It has since now been discovered that the Meteorological Officer at RAF Thorney Island made an independent report of a substantially very similar object. This occurred at 22.30 on the night of 13 January, that is about two hours, ten minutes before the Riddell's sighting.

What may be a further connected report comes from a Quantity Surveyor and his wife who were about to get into their car to drive the mile or so into Ryde at 08.15 on 14 January. The sun was low down in the east and they spotted what they thought to be an aircraft fuselage strongly reflecting its light in the western sky, below cloud level. It was glowing a brilliant orange-gold and had no visible wings or protruberances, but a 'whirling' white light underneath. They estimated it to be about a mile distant, at a height of between 1000 and 15000 feet. It moved quite silently on a slow course to the north. They watched it only for about 30 seconds, as they had to be on time for work, but it was still visible as they drove away. Apparently they only considered it unusual in retrospect, and in the light of the report of the Riddell's observation.

Venusian Tiddlywinks

by NORMAN OLIVER

Glancing through back issues of the *Journal*, (yes, I actually do!), I came across Vol 2 No 10 1969/70 to which I had contributed an article *As True As I'm Talking To This Venusian*. Somehow though, I'd managed not to refer to Him(?) at all, and finished with a PS which said, 'Perhaps I'd better tell you about my Venusian friend some other time!'

Well, five years is a fair length of time—to us poor Earthmen or perhaps under one of our latest legislative efforts this should be Earth-persons—sex equality and all that! Mind you, my Venusian contact can't understand this at all, since 'they don't go in for that sort of thing.' It is rather, in fact, like one of Ray Bradbury's Martian characters who, when asked what they did about sex, gave the appalling answer, 'Oh! About sex we have our tea!' But I digress, since I really want to tell you some of the things my Venusian friend has to say about us.

WINE COOLERS

'I can't understand you lot at all,' he says, 'I thought we'd proved once and for all it was *us* who were coming to Earth when we contacted Adamski. Mind you, he did get one or two minor details wrong—after all, he really should have noticed we have seven legs and three eyes, but apart from that he was pretty accurate!' 'But,' he went on, 'I really do get my backs up when you lot start saying we travelled down to Earth in lamp shades, mooring buoys and now—even wine-coolers! It really is a bit much!'

'You must also understand that our scientists have *definitely* ruled out the possibility of any intelligent life-forms existing elsewhere in the Galaxy. It *is* true, of course, that we haven't been anywhere else in the Galaxy other than Earth—but we know we're right. We've

heard too, that some crackpots on Earth say there's a 'twin' Earth, exactly opposite the Sun to you and in the same orbital plane. Now, I mean, this is absolute nonsense—we *know* there's no such planet. Mind you, though, we've often wondered whether there might be a twin Venus. And it's no good your saying that you can't see it from Earth, because it's quite obvious to any thinking person that such a planet would have intelligent life on it, capable of hiding the planet's existence by bending light-rays and so on.

TERRAWOTSITS

'What did you say? Yes! I *know* I said there was no intelligent life anywhere else, but it's only logical to maintain a flexible attitude, and surely it's obvious there's no contradiction between our saying there is no intelligent life elsewhere while at the same time admitting the possibility that there could be. But then of course, you Terrawotsits never *did* understand logic!'

'Then take this stupid 'Ultra-coexistent Terrathingamejigs' notion you've come up with—it's enough to make us Venusians keel over in disgust! They *can't* exist—we've proved it! Though, when I say that, it *is* true to say that several of our Venusian 'sensitives' thinks they've seen some 'co-existents' down here . . . My God, there's one of them now: take it away! *Take it away!* Oh, it's gone, thank the Lord.'

'By the way, I hope that you didn't think my references to God mean we think that there is one. Of course, we don't since we *know* that there isn't one and there isn't any Afterlife. We're quite sure about this ever since one of our intellectuals

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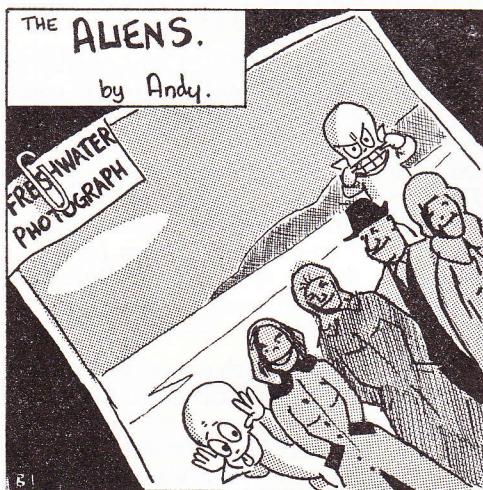
VENUSIAN TIDDLYWINKS

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came back after he'd died to tell us he'd ceased to exist! No! There can't possibly be any religious significance, you know, but we are beginning to get a bit worried about all the UFOs and contact claims on Venus. You see, we *know* we're the only ones flitting about from planet to planet, so all those reports must be hallucinations or something.'

'What? You want to know why, if I've got seven legs and three eyes, I look almost human to you too? Well, that's obvious, isn't it? I *am* almost human, but I hypnotised you into thinking I said that bit about seven legs and three eyes. Why? Well, wasn't it the obvious thing to do? What! You think it wasn't? Well, I just can't understand how you Earth-things think—it was only logic, after all!

'How do you mean? You say that if I'm going by logic I can't exist? Oh, I see—it's the bit about Venus being too hot to live on. Well, that's quite true—it *is*!



One explanation given for the strange phenomenon in this photograph, was 'light reflection!'

Nonsense—it's perfectly reasonable. I'm not existing *now* at all! Don't you remember? You stupid lot started distributing blue algae into our atmosphere in the 1970s—that made Venus into a planet with an Earth-type atmosphere: then *we* developed and now we're time-travelling back to try and stop you lot from doing it: then we won't exist and you lot can stop worrying about flying saucers!'

My Venusian friend then vanished into a cassette tape which self-destructed within ten seconds. Since his remarks have, without question, solved the UFO enigma once and for all, it is clear we can now all relax and go back to playing tiddlywinks! How dare you Sir! Of course that isn't all we've been doing up till now!

With acknowledgements to Margaret Wilton.

New identity for Bufora

The Council have accepted the Publication Sub-Committee's recommendation that the go-ahead should be given on a new-style letterhead—the first stage in a new visual identity for Bufora Ltd.

Designed by Richard Beet, the new identity is distinctive, yet at the same time, aims to project the right 'image' to our audience—the scientific community, potential members and the press. It incorporates a logotype which symbolises our objectives in an abstract, but striking way.

It is the first part of an overall scheme aimed at providing a long-term solution to the problem of achieving instant recognition. It is hoped that, in the next two years, the identity will be carried into forms, publications, compliment slips, lecture and membership cards, and even, perhaps, on ties and badges.

Controversy !

The future of British ufology

by JENNY RANDLES

There has been a good deal of controversial comment in recent months concerning the future of British ufology. Inevitably Bufora, as a leading representative in this field, has come in for critical reaction from many quarters. Some of this reaction has been justified, some not. There can be little doubt that this country lags behind many others. Not only does it lack the professional support of officialdom and science existent elsewhere, but also we fail to make the most of what organisation we do have. Obviously the gaining of professional support will not come overnight. There are signs of its development, as was well illustrated at the Hanley conference, but how can we expect such recognition without putting our own house in order?

ENTHUSIASM

A vital step is being taken by Bufora in its attempts to forge a close link with Contact (UK). Such an integration of the major data gathering bodies in the country is not simply desirable—it is *essential*. There is no need for fears or apprehensions about mergers and loss of individual identity. Both organisations have much to offer and can be mutually co-existent.

Of course most UFO investigation in this country is carried out by individuals. It is a very difficult matter to ensure that the standard of this work remains high because the enthusiasm and circumstances of these individuals differs so widely. Bufora must do all it can by providing field manuals, instructions and field exercises in investigation techniques. Of course a major difficulty is that those who will benefit most are the dedicated persons (who invariably need less assistance). A far greater role has to be played by the local investigations co-ordinators and liaison officers. Every willing and ex-

perienced Bufora member must be used in some way so that the less experienced have someone to turn to for advice and assistance. I am convinced that part of the reason why so much investigation work is of poor standard is because the ordinary Bufora member is unsure what to do, or who to turn to.

Many RICs have vast regions and it is beyond the bounds of reason to expect them to give assistance to *every* Bufora member inside their area. Thought should be given towards reducing RIC areas—even to the point of utilising non-Bufora personnel with the required experience. Naturally Bufora want the subscriptions *but* surely we have enough confidence in ourselves to believe that such a non-member, once carrying out his function and seeing the benefits of membership, would join up. In any event, as I pointed out, *if* that person can do something positive to assist Bufora and ufology, does it matter?

THREAT

This whole situation affects local UFO investigation groups. One cannot force Bufora members to join their local group, or help to form one if such does not exist already, but more ought to be done to point out the advantages. There is no reason on earth why Bufora should be afraid, as they seem to be, that such groups are a threat to their own existence. Groups within Nufon have proved that a very satisfactory working relationship can exist between them and the national body, with benefits not only to both parties, but to British ufology. Groups have more power in the local community, to gain publicity for themselves (and Bufora) and to attain public confidence in reporting UFO observations.

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CONTROVERSY

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A tentative step in the right direction has been taken with the appointment of liaison officers. Through them it must be made clear that a radical change in thinking has taken place. Can there be any objection to carrying names and addresses of local groups, provided they prove they wish to assist Bufora, on the back page of the *Journal*? Surely such information ought to be made readily available to all Bufora members. Perhaps the odd piece of news or information about these groups would not go amiss either. They are a vital part of British ufology and must be integrated with Bufora in their activities.

PROBLEMS

Networks such as Nufon do have a future. Such networks, on a limited geographical scale, ensure that experience, resources and information can be pooled and shared at a *local* level. It is perhaps significant that since Nufon began not one northern UFO group has been dissolved. This must say something positive for the advantages of mutual contact. Such a network of networks, over the country as a whole, all working with Bufora, would go a long way towards solving our problems.

CROSSROADS

After we have set our store right there seems no reason why we ought not turn our attention to the world. By now an international network of UFO groups ought to be operating. With such a vast international problem, it is sheer folly, that one is not. Here Britain *could* take the lead.

I have heard it said, and believe it true, that ufology in this country is at a cross-roads. The time has come when the big push has to be made. We must set out firmly on the road, and it must be the right one. Otherwise we shall find ourselves doing nothing and going nowhere very fast!

MOD tracks UFO or

This case is potentially interesting because of the closeness of the encounter with the object,

CASE DETAILS

Date: 12.37, 23 June 1975.
Location: 52 degrees 30 minutes N,
20 degrees W.
Witness: Well qualified and experienced radar operator with electronics engineer qualifications.
Weather: Thick fog—visibility 1000 yds.
Equipment: 10cm (3GHz) Radar set.
Radar horizon—22 miles.

CASE SYNOPSIS

The first point that must be made concerning this report is that, although the witnesses' name, address and full occupation is on file, none of these details can be made public. This is because he was at the time under the strict jurisdiction of the Ministry of Defence, to whom a full report was made. We are most fortunate therefore, that he has seen fit to brave the Official Secrets Act by relating the story to us. The witness was on board a ship in the Atlantic, off the west coast of Ireland. He is well qualified and was operating radar equipment in thick fog. He picked up an echo which he presumed to be a ship closing in on them, and reported this to the captain. On returning to the screen, he noted the object's trace was disappearing at a 'totally impossible' velocity. Being acquainted with all types of natural phenomenon and anomalous propagations as recorded on the screen, he was certain that this object could only be classed as an unidentified flying object. He reported it as this, and the Captain submitted the report to the Ministry of Defence. The sighting lasted for one minute.

several factors. These include and the possibility of back-up witnesses.

OBSERVATION

Trace recorded approximately 30 seconds. Elevation was constant at $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees. Initial bearing 105 degrees true, remaining constant. Object was initially at range seven nautical miles and closing at a speed of approximately six knots. It disappeared within 15 seconds with a terminal velocity of at least 6000 knots. Its acceleration, if constant, was at least 18G.s

INVESTIGATION

The witness was interviewed several times, and on each occasion the story was related without inconsistency. We were impressed by the witness, who appeared knowledgeable in radar and electronics, level-headed and open-minded. He admitted to a mild interest in UFOs, but his interest has not been affected by his sighting. The possibility of misinterpretation is considered virtually nil. The witness is well versed in types of 'ghost images'; there were no temperature inversions recorded and no surface turbulence. The ship in question was stationary throughout the observation, and unfortunately the witness did not wind up the vertical aerial as the object disappeared from view, so we are unable to ascertain whether it simply was lost over the 22 mile horizon of the equipment or whether it also ascended. The conclusion of the investigators was that the witness was sincere, he believed that he had seen a UFO, but did not know what that meant he had seen. The possibility of a hoax seems remote, because of the character of the witness and the fact that he is insistent on personal details not being revealed.

Owing to the close supervision of the ships crew by the MOD, the investigators feel that there is little more progress that can be made on this case.

Report by PETER BOTTOMLEY and GORDON CLEGG.

CONCLUSIONS

The above investigation was conducted between 26 and 30 November 1975. However, we include a second report dated 4 December 1975. This concerns the possibility of a hoax—something which had to be considered carefully for two reasons. Firstly, slight inconsistencies in the quoted figure calculations, and secondly that the witness is known to one of the investigators through connections at work (where he is often good-naturedly derided for his UFO involvements). He felt that there was a risk of a hoax being perpetrated on him, despite the obvious sincerity of the witness.

The inconsistencies came from the figures quoted by the witness. He stated the trace described an object at seven miles elevation $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees with an estimated altitude of 220 feet. Taking any two of these as constant, and varying the other the results are significant:

Distance 7 miles; Elevation $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees;
Height = 1115 feet.

Distance 7 miles; Altitude 220 feet;
Elevation = 0 degrees 18 minutes.

Elevation $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees; Altitude 220 feet;
Distance = 1.38 miles.

Consultation was then entered into with Jeff Porter of Mufora, himself an electronics engineer. He suggested that the error may be due to the pitch of the ship, if the radar were not corrected for a shifting horizon. Consequently, the witness was questioned on this point, and the discrepancies pointed out. He was most disturbed by them, and agreed that the revised figures were correct. He stated that the radar set was gyroscopically compensated, but that in any case, with fog, there was no wind and therefore no

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RADAR UFO

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shifting horizon. His only possible explanation was that he had used a slide rule, which he termed a 'guessing stick,' and thought he may have dropped a decimal point. He suggested we recheck his figures for acceleration and speed. From this it was determined that he had *under* estimated these figures. The true acceleration was 25Gs and the terminal velocity 7194 knots.

To summarise, we are now sure that the report is genuine. Not only do we believe in the testimony of the witness, but we feel sure that he would have not made mistakes in calculations or would have erred on the high (rather than low) side. They also feel he would have seized on the shifting horizon as a convenient 'out' for the error, or had some other explanation ready. The cumulative effect, they believe, indicates that the report is genuine and concerns the detection of a truly unknown object performing feats of acceleration and motion totally outside the capabilities of current aircraft.

The second part of Lionel Beer's 'History of Bufora' has been held over to the next issue.

Investigator training

A training programme is being prepared to help the less experienced investigator, or members with no experience, to carry out investigations for the Association. Our training officer (Trevor Whitaker) will be pleased to hear views of experienced investigators as to what are the requirements of such a programme. Views of members who may not now be active investigators, but have been so in the past, will also be most welcome. Trevor's address is on the inside front cover of this *Journal*.

Lunar mystery deepens

An untimely and unexplained occurrence on 18 January 1976, ended the performance of one of five remote scientific stations transmitting data from the moon.

Scientists and engineers were disappointed and puzzled. The station was almost five years old and had an estimated remaining life of from two to three years. Alan Shepard and Edgar Mitchell had established the station during their visit to the moon on Apollo 14 in February 1971. In March 1975, the 14 station lost its receiver, rendering ground controls useless. And when the transmitter failed in January, it left the scientists and engineers who designed the stations perplexed.

But the mystery deepened, when, on 19 February, the Apollo 14 ALSEP (Apollo Lunar Scientific Experiment Package) *returned to life with its transmitter, receiver and experiments functioning extremely well*.

In fact, for one of the experiments, the 14 station appears to be performing better than it ever has. The charged particle lunar environment experiment (CPLLE) had not been able to perform during lunar daylight due to temperature variations, which degraded the power supply. The CPLLE is now performing during lunar daylight and sending good data.

The ALSEP team at the Johnson Space Center at present has no idea of why the station came back on. However, they are proceeding slowly in their troubleshooting as a precaution against overloading the station with too many commands. Extreme temperature variations, ranging as much as 220 degrees C in two hours, were cited as a possible cause for the cessation.

RICHARD BEET

Uforum

Readers are invited to comment on any article appearing in *BUFORA Journal* or on any other relevant topic. Letters should be kept as brief as possible. The editor reserves the right to publish and to extract from letters where necessary. Letters of some length may be considered by the editor to be suitable as features.

Advice for investigators

Dear Sir

As the investigator is the only link between the Bufora organisation and the witness of a UFO event, it is important that he is acquainted with the subject, and that he must have a professional approach. Read everything available on the UFO phenomenon, but learn to disregard 'pseudo-orientated' material. Use common sense and good judgement. Obtain a working knowledge of associated sciences, most importantly, photography, astronomy, biology, geology, aerodynamics, radiology, physics, psychology and electronics, and get acquainted with radar techniques, satellites, aircraft and natural phenomena.

I realise all work done on behalf of Bufora is voluntary, but to achieve worthwhile aims, time and money must be used. The subject is too serious for half-hearted measures, and we should not rely on schoolboys or old ladies to do all our work for us. Although we often feel the work that we are doing, and the results we are getting, are of no value, we must remember that work done today will be of help to future researchers.

Yours sincerely

BARRY M KING

554 Goresbrook Road
Dagenham
Essex RM9 4XD

Farnborough entity

Dear Sir

In his report on the possible UFO entity case at Farnborough (*Bufora Journal* Jan/Feb 1976), Mr Omar Fowler asks whether one of the features of the entity—no pupils in his eyes—does correlate with other cases of this type.

One report which comes to mind is the claimed contact by Arthur Shuttlewood with 'Karne', described in chapter 16 of his book *Warnings from Flying Friends*. The eyes of the 'entity' in this particular case were 'brilliant blue or grey-green', and appeared to lack pupils. Perhaps there is a further similarity in the colour—as the eyes of the Farnborough 'entity' were described as being a 'greeny colour'.

Yours sincerely

NICHOLAS MALORET

Wessex Association for The Study of Unexplained Phenomena (WATSUP)
180 Locksway Road, Milton
Portsmouth, Hants PO4 8LE

A question of why?

Dear Sir

I refer to J E Scarry's comments published in the column 'Controversy' in the November/December issue of the *Journal*.

In this he strongly indicated that all UFOs or at least the vast majority, very

continued overleaf

A 'classic' from Belgium

rarely—if indeed ever—show any inclination toward hostility. This, I am afraid, is just simply not the case.

Although I personally would very much like to believe UFOs or their occupants to be intelligent, peacable beings, there is overwhelming evidence that at least some UFOs pose a possible danger to us unaware 'earthlings'.

In particular, I refer to the rather frightening case published in the book, *The New UFO Breakthrough*, which details the incident of a UFO encounter by a young girl, in which she received multiple and severe burns, administered purposely by it's occupants.

Taking this and many other unmentioned cases into consideration, I feel that it is a very naive concept indeed to regard all UFOs as friendly to Homo-Sapiens. I am also quite certain that the information published in the previously stated book, is not the work of some UFO fanatics and the information put forward must certainly be based on some concrete evidence. Perhaps if Mr Scarry was to study more carefully the many books of cases relating to UFO hostility, he might and that the number of hostile encounters are far in excess of the number that he would have us believe.

Yours sincerely

THOMAS HIGGINS
65 Sarto Road, Naas,
Co Kildare, Ireland.

Horsham flap

At the time of going to press, there was intense activity in the Horsham, Sussex area. More details to follow . . .

On 5 June 1955, around 1930 hrs, a Mr Muyldermans was riding on his bicycle towards Saint-Marc, a few kilometres north-west of Namur, when his attention was drawn by a bright glow that was moving in the sky, at high speed and without any sound. The witness saw the object slow down and, owing to its low altitude, thought that it was going to land in the large field that bordered the road.

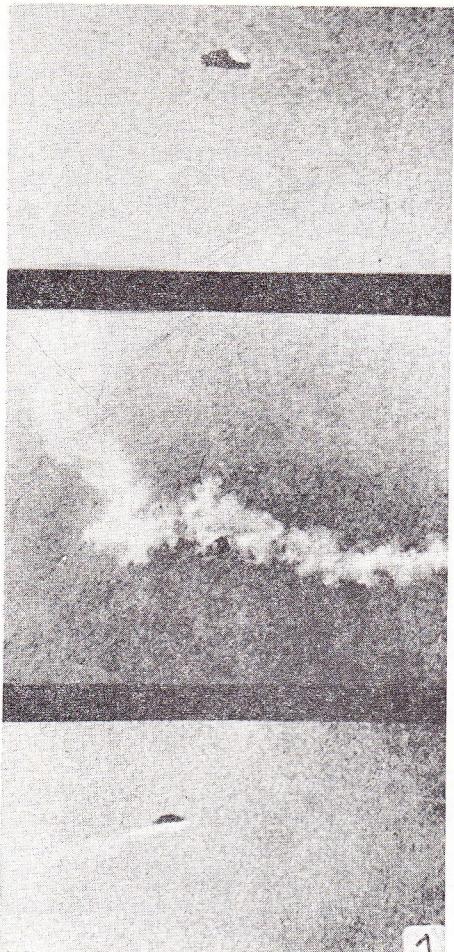
Suddenly, the object—thought then by the witness to be an aeroplane—stopped. He got off his bike to observe the strange machine—disc-shaped and a dark bottle-green colour. A luminous brightness could be seen reflecting the sun on the dome and underneath could be seen what resembled landing spheres.

WHITE TRAIL

Mr Muyldermans, a photographer, grabbed his camera, a Leica 1948 model equipped with a 1.8mm objective lens and a 17 DIN film, and took a photograph when the object was stationary. After a few seconds, the object descended, producing a white trail like that of an aeroplane's condensation. It then moved round on a horizontal plan, and ascended into the white trail. As the trail faded, the UFO suddenly accelerated, dropping tiny luminous particles. According to the witness, the object moved off at 500 km/h, and disappeared into the western horizon.

The total duration of the observation was approximately 1½ minutes. This object was apparently observed from Namur and, in the evening, from Brussels.

Mr Muyldermans' documents were published in several newspapers and specialized reviews. He then decided to send the negatives to the French newspaper *Radar*, which was offering at that period,



In *Challenge to Science*, Jacques and Janine Vallee wrote on page 64:

The three photographs taken near Namur, Belgium, on 5 June 1955 are believed to be authentic, because on exposure 2 the object is seen behind a condensation trail, which could not have formed at an altitude lower than 1500 metres, according to the professional meteorologists by whom the photographs were analyzed. On that basis, the minimum diameter of the object must have been twelve metres. Also, a professional astronomer examined the negatives and reached the conclusion that they had not been faked.

a very large sum of money to someone who could provide authentic photos of a 'flying saucer'. The paper received the precious documents but when, one month later, Mr Muyldermans wanted to recuperate them, the editors of *Radar* told him that the negatives had already been sent back by the mail . . . Mr Muyldermans took the matter to justice and an investigation was undertaken, but with no results, and the negatives still remain undiscovered.

ref: *Inforespace* 1972/4, pps 21 to 22.

Science et Vie, 516.

Le Soir Illustré, 16 June 1955.

Translated and supplied from *Inforespace* by Miss Alice Ashton—SOBEPS.

Alan Fossey resigns

In a letter sent to the *Journal* on 21 February, Alan Fossey, Media relations director and southern liaison officer, announced his resignation from the Bufora Council.

Increased professional responsibilities, together with the added load of an Open University degree course, are contributory factors in Alan's decision. He sees the degree course as a means of opening new vistas, and may, he says, help him to make a serious contribution to ufology in future years.

Alan will continue to take an avid interest from the 'sidelines', and will remain a member of Bufora.

Official UFO

This excellent American newsstand magazine is now in its seventh issue. Full of US articles, eyewitness accounts and photographs, *Official UFO* is available by subscription to Countrywide Publications Inc, 257 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010. Cost for nine issues is \$8.00.

Sighting summaries

A selection from the Investigation Department files

IN THE PINK

75-064/065 23 February 1975
Orpington

There were two phases to this sighting. The first occurred at 18.41 when a young man was out driving with his fiancee, near Potts Wood. They noticed a huge, bright object in the sky. It was glowing slightly pink and circular. Observations were made and it is estimated that at least a football at arms length would be needed to cover it. Both witnesses got out of the car, and using a stopwatch, timed it for 30 seconds as it hovered. It then descended into, or just beyond the woods for five seconds at a speed of 30 to 35 mph. The witnesses immediately went to report the sighting to the BUFORA Logistics Advisor, Lawrence Dale. When the story had been related, Mr Dale suggested he and the young man return to the scene of observation. They walked into the forest at 20.41, observing several aircraft circling on approach to London Airport, with landing lights on. Suddenly one to two degrees below the aircraft a small bright light appeared. It seemed to move on a course directly towards the witnesses for about thirty seconds, increasing in size and luminosity. Its final brightness was four times that of the brightest aircraft headlight seen. Both witnesses then experienced a strong feeling of recognition and that the object was going away. Mr Dale's colleague expressed the view that it was almost as if it knew it was being watched. Within two seconds, it dimmed to a point source one to two degrees north west of its original position and disappeared. For the next 15 minutes, three military aircraft circled the area, in a lower position to the civil aircraft.

RED AND WHITE LITS

75-058 12 June 1975 23.30
Belfast

Yet another LITS report involving Belfast schoolchildren tells of two white lights and a red one, flying swiftly across the sky in triangular formation.

SCHOOLBOYS SEE MAGNESIUM UFO

75-057 16 June 1975 23.25
Belfast

Several local schoolboys were witness to a hazy round object, like a piece of burning magnesium, as it moved northwards against the dark sky background.

UFO OR NOT?

75-056 24 June 1975
Belfast

A schoolboy and some friends reported they had seen a silvery oval shape surrounded in haze. It moved west to east above a vapour trail left by an aircraft which had just passed over and disappeared behind houses. A father of one of the boys was present, viewing through binoculars, but attests that he only saw the aircraft during the ten minutes of the alleged sighting.

SPARKING PEAR

75-067 24 June 1975
Dublin

Two schoolboys were sitting on a wall near a disused factory. Suddenly a pear-shaped object appeared in the south east. It was silvery white in colour and moved towards them slowly before hovering briefly for a few seconds. It then disappeared over houses to the north east. It was in view for six minutes and seemed to discharge sparks from its right side as it moved.

SILVER CIGAR

75-055 23 July 1975 12.30
Belfast

A baker and his wife viewed a silvery cigar-shaped object, hovering between clouds and reflecting sunlight. It was in sight for six minutes, but the witnesses did not see it disappear.

CLOCK FACE UFO

75-068 2 August 1975 00.30
Biddenden, Kent

In the wake of Stella Lansing (see recent issues of *Flying Saucer Review*) a clock face UFO made its appearance over the early morning village of Biddenden. The witness is well respected and has a good record of observational experience. The hands of the clock were at five to five, and remained so for two hours. During this period, it did not move at all, but by the closing stages it resolved into a solid, bright light which was much smaller in apparent size than the clock face. Several times small pin points of light were seemingly discharged by the object, though they did not appear until well clear of the main body and were only momentary in duration. Note the sighting at Dartford one hour previous (75-066).

UNDULATING TENNIS BALL

75-066 2 August 1975 23.30
Dartford, Kent

Two witnesses observed an orange ball of light, the size of a small tennis ball, moving northwards on an up and down path. After a few minutes, it veered eastwards and vanished.

SAILS ALOFT

75-060 3 August 1975 21.00
Cambridge

There are several independent witnesses to this interesting case. Their descriptions of the object do not entirely agree, but there is a consensus of opinion that it resembled two bright stars close together. One of the witnesses was a surveyor and he described two 'sail-like' projections on a flat base hanging motionless in the sky. It was yellow/orange in colour and vanished after 30 seconds, by just fading out. By cross reference to the positions of all the witnesses, it would seem that the object was 2000 feet up and 150 feet in size. No official explanation has been forthcoming, but the theory of the surveyor, is that it was sunlight reflecting off a mass of floating fuel discharged by an aircraft.

GOLDEN SAUCER

75-062 7/8 August 1975 04.30
Soundwell, Bristol

This most spectacular sighting, made by a retired BAC worker, occurred on two consecutive nights for over two hours duration. On both occasions he was awakened by his cat 'growling' and jumping onto the window. In the southern sky was a saucer-shaped object with a rotating golden edge. It glittered and made a slight 'purring' sound like a generator. His experience with aircraft engines, has been quite extensive and he is sure that this sound was different. The object remained stationary and faded out as the sky brightened. On the first morning a trap door opened in the side of the object and light seemed to radiate from the inside. A small shape appeared to come out and move slowly southwards. It returned some 20 minutes later and the trap door closed. This occurred only the once, just before the object vanished.

SHIMMERING RED CROSS

Uncoded 1964-1970 After 00.30
Belfast

The witness was, at the unremembered date, a nurse. As she walked towards the geriatric unit of the City Hospital, she saw a brightly shimmering silver cross, hovering overhead. It seemed like a 'big star' with an apparent vertical axis of 16 inches and a much smaller horizontal one. She went into the ward and tried to per-

suade an auxiliary to go out to view it, but she insisted that they both go. Since the nurse could not leave the ward unattended, it is not known how the object disappeared. The investigators feel that it is possible this was an optical illusion of a very bright star.

BASCOTE DISCS

Uncoded Whit Monday 1959 15.30
Bascote, Warwickshire

After searching the fields for cowslips, a housewife and her ten year old daughter were lying in the grass gazing at the sky. Suddenly a silvery disc shape flew overhead on a north-west to south-east course. It was apparently quite low, but totally silent. The underside seemed to be revolving. It was in view for a minute, and when it had gone out of sight, a second, similar object traversed the same path. In all four identical discs were seen in a matter of minutes. Two other adults were close by, but were engrossed in conversation and despite efforts to make them look up, did not see any of the phenomena.

Advisers still required

In the November/December issue of the *Journal*, a brief mention was made by the Research Department that we are in need of advisers. Such advisers will be expected to have an understanding or knowledge of certain subjects, though not necessarily formal qualifications. They are needed to assist in the many facets of investigation work which crop up in certain cases. We intend to compile a detailed list of advisers and publish it, so that the expertise within Bufora can be seen.

If you feel that you can contribute either your knowledge or experience then please write to Jenny Randles, and outline in as much detail as possible how, and why, you can help. Do not think that if you don't have a degree in physics you will be of no value. There are many diverse fields in which we vitally need assistance, for example soil analysis, photographic analysis, and psychology. In the complex subject of ufology, we never know exactly what kind of special help we are going to need next. You could be just the one we need, so whatever your speciality, let us know.

JENNY RANDELS

People

We extend a welcome to the following, recently admitted to Bufora:

6 December 1975 admissions

London : Miss J Cook; R G Haslam; J Kealy; L E Kendrick.

Home Counties : M Knight; Miss S Lewis; R McHardy; Miss M Navarro; J Racher; P S Roberts; Miss V A Tuckey.

National : P K Bartholomew; A Brogden; P Coles; A B Collins; D Cox; A P Dewhurst; C Dexter; B M Garoner; B J Gibbs; D Gideon; K Grimsey; G Hewitt; Mrs P Higley; S Higley; Miss S M Jacobs; A S James; M C Leigh; J Marians; M R Pickup; K Reardon; Miss S Row; R L Rushforth; R G Smith; P S Westrope; C B Wilkes; T J Barrable; M Barry; C Bourne; B Bradley; T Bryan; E C B Cauchi; A Cervi; Miss B Chivers; S Clarke; P Cloherty; G L Collier; D Cromwell; D Dardis; L W Davies; E Downey; M J Duffy; L Fairbairn; J Fitzgerald; Miss A Griffiths; Miss S J Harper; M J Harris; B Hartley; P J Holownia; R J Howard; P R Hudson; V K Jassi; P Jones; J P Kain; J J G Kelly; J Lack; D R Lennard; T Lewis; P Liss; G Martin; D O Mayes; S McCarten; Miss P McKeown; A J McLaren; D P Meadows; J Murphy; A J O'Neill; R L Pearcey; C A Randall;

P J S Rogers; P Schubert; E Spindler; P Taylor; S Thrower; S J Thorpe; S D Wales; A H Whetstone; K Wilkinson; R H Wolstenholme; J Yourell.

Overseas : L/Cpl R Barrett; G Lye; Pte R A McGillivray; Cpl G T Robinson; A R A Quarles.

Society : Edinburgh University UFO Research Society.

7 February 1976 admissions

London : R Burton; B Foley; P R Hardman; C C Palmer; Mrs E Robson; P J Williams; D Wrightson.

Home Counties : Miss A D Bain; Miss J E Baker; J Connor; D Fincham; C E Glaister; S J Hay; R I Inns; Mrs H Miller; Miss E Murray; G Noble; J Stabler; M Stenhoff.

National : D A Bethell; S Bradley; D Brown; G S Brownett; Miss R Carrick; T P Chivers; K P Cresswell; I S Cresswell; Miss C Daybell; G Doran; C R Fitzpatrick; Miss K Gibson; A W Griffin; R Hall; J Herbert; T Higgins; I Jones; G Knights; Miss J H Lay; P Lowry; Mrs I McCrossan; P McTeigue; J McGowan; Mrs W Moore; W J Mushat; N Pollard; G A Pope; D J Ryalls; J W Smith; M R Smith; S Smith; Miss S Thomas; J Thomason.

Overseas : M Krmelj; Cpl M J Barnett; Miss M P Vaulk; R Watts.

Nufon News

Sighting activity

At the start of 1976, the importance of group co-operation has been proved by no less than three local groups (Mufora, Digap and Rigap) all working together, through Nufon, on investigating a series of reports in central Lancashire. Ufosis (c/o 136 Cleveland Tower, Holloway Circus, Birmingham 1) are also very active in the West Midlands. They also operate an information service for newcomers to ufology, and will be pleased to answer any queries on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope. They have, incidentally, applied for association to Bufora.

Administration

Nufon is now organised by a Governing Committee, which consists of equal representation of all associate groups. There is also an executive which controls day-to-day administration. This currently consists of Jenny Randles of Bufora (secretarial work), Peter Warrington of Mufora (Finance) and Trevor Whitaker (Bufora York-

shire) acting as Chairman. This committee stands down at each committee meeting, held every three months. Rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the Bufora Staffordshire branch, a new organisation, Ufora (Staffs), is looking after investigation work in this area. Nufon has also forged stronger links with outlying Bufora associates, the Northern Ireland branch and the Edinburgh University UFO Society. Work on joint projects with both Contact UK (a detailed catalogue of UFO activity in the north of England) and Bufora (Investigator Training and Investigation and Research advisers) is progressing well.

Events

A conference is to be held on 22 May 1976 at the Fiesta Club in Sheffield. Hosts to this years event are the Sheffield, Dinnington & Rotherham UFO Research Association. Provisional plans are to base the afternoons programme on ufologists, with research-orientated lectures and seminars, and to aim the evening at the general public with a more 'popular' presentation. Full details will be available from local groups and liaison officer in due course.

JENNY RANDLES.

continued from inside front cover

Advertisements

Personal column: 2p a word. Display rates: whole page £10.00; half page £6.00 quarter page £3.00. Outside back cover: £12.00; half page £7.00. Please send advertising copy and related correspondence to the Vice-Chairman:

L E Beer, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS. Telephone 01-723 0305

Bufora Investigation Network

National Investigations Co-ordinator

Ken Phillips, AMSERT, 26 Chevening Road, Kensal Rise, London NW6 6DD
Telephone 01-969 8847

Regional Investigation Co-ordinators

S Campbell, 4 Dovecot Loan, Edinburgh, Scotland
R Colborne, 98 Envis Way, Guildford, Surrey
L Dale, 11 Wimborne Avenue, St. Pauls Cray, Orpington, Kent BR5 2NS
M Dickie 4 Menai Court, Beaumaris, Anglesey, N Wales
R Farrow, 9 Hawthorns, Cornwall PL12 4BB
P Hudson, Flat 2, 15 London Road, Spalding, Lincs
A Jackman, 17 Loring Road, Whetstone, London N20
D James, 7 Queen Street, Porthill, Staffordshire
B Jeffrey, St Catherine's College, Cambridge
P Johnson, 1 Demorley Garth, Sheringham, Norfolk
M Johnston, The Desmesne, Lurgan, Craigavon, Co Armagh, N Ireland
R Jones-Pugh, Parkland Place, Roch, Haverfordwest, Pembs, Wales
B King, 554 Goresbrook Road, Dagenham, Essex
D McGroary, 63 Thames Road, Redcar, Cleveland
MURO, 8 Newlands Avenue, Boughton, Notts
R Nash, Ker House, 12 Southwick Hill Road, Cosham, Hants PO6 3LU
J Roylance, 41 Eastfield, Blewbury, Didcot, Oxon
I Sanderson, Sandon, High Street, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry
J Shaw, 22 Lavender Gardens, Battersea, London SW11
D Shelton, 8 Moorhouse Road, Willerby Road, Hull, North Humberside HU5 5PW
T Thornton, 45 Ellesmere Road, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1BG
I Vinten, 51 Hutton Park, Hutton Moor Road, Weston-super-Mare, Somerset
J Webber, 4 Embankment Road, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 1JZ
T Whitaker, 8 Central Park, Wellhead, Halifax, Yorshire

Information as supplied by the National Investigations Co-ordinator. All UFO reports should initially be reported to the NIC.

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